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THE MOUNT SINAI MEDICAL CENTER

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Mount Sinai School of Medicine • The Mount Sinai Hospital

Office of the President and Dean

June 20, 1978

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
President
Rockefeller University
1230 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

There seems to be general agreement that a steadily decreasing number of graduates of medical school are choosing clinical research as a career. Possible reasons are many, but the financial return and other personal rewards suffer by comparison with the practice of medicine. Other possible reasons are lack of identifiable role models in the field and lack of academic security. We all agree that advances in health require that the trend be reversed and that more opportunities be made available for training in clinical research.

For some time Dorothy Krieger and I have been talking with Lita Annenberg Hazen, trustee of Mount Sinai and long-term supporter of medicine, about how a major contribution from her would best work to reverse the trend. An annual prize for the best clinical research would draw public attention to both the need and the accomplishments, but there is a disadvantage in rewarding people solely after they have made their discoveries. Fellowship support rewards people while they're doing the work but has the disadvantage of running the risk that they may not be productive in the future. Both have their effectiveness diminished by the fact that there are innumerable prizes and fellowships available for the best workers.

The Lita Annenberg Hazen prize and fellowship award to be administered by the Mount Sinai School of Medicine will combine the two. The Awards Committee will annually choose the best established and productive clinical investigator. The awardee will be given a \$50,000 prize, and the institution will be given

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approximately \$50,000, to be used as a fellowship stipend to support a young person working with the prize winner. An award committee, on which we are asking you to serve, will choose the prize winner, and the selection of the fellow will be left to him and his institution. However, we should ensure quality in the fellow by delaying his appointment for one year, thus allowing time for an announcement and competition for the position. The fellow would then be selected from the best available.

The award program has been established with a \$500,000 grant to Mount Sinai and instructions to spend the corpus as necessary to accomplish the goal of popularizing clinical research. Sufficient additional funds will be added if the program appears to fly.

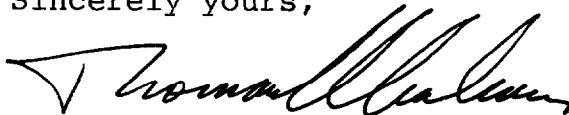
Bylaws have been drawn up creating an appointments committee, of which I am chairman and Dorothy Krieger and Ed Kilbourne are members. Other members are Lita Hazen; her daughter Cynthia Polsky; Alfred R. Stern, Chairman of our Board. In addition to you we are writing to ask the following to serve on the Awards Committee: Baruj Benacerraf, Bob Berliner, Don Fredrickson, Roger Guillemin, David Hamburg, John Littlefield, Francis Moore, Donald Seldin, and Harry Smith.

Our plan will be to have a meeting of the Awards Committee in early fall to settle on the details of the award, announcement and process of selection. The staff would then collect all information on nominees and forward them to the Awards Committee members for consideration at a meeting early in the year. Announcement could be made at the time of the clinical meetings.

We have discussed the possibility that one or more of the clinical societies might be interested in co-sponsoring the award and/or facilitating the announcement at the time of the annual meeting.

In summary, we believe that we have the beginnings of an important shot-in-the-arm for clinical research, and I sincerely hope that you will agree to serve on the Awards Committee.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas C. Chalmers, M.D.
President and Dean

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